

as though not only are these exceptional Marines training the ANA and performing their respective duties, but they are also aiding in forging a bond between a young, willing military and a civilian people in need of a sense of security.

The sons of liberty and daughters of democracy throughout America, and especially Texas, continue to join the military. They understand that our nation is at war, yet they choose to charge headlong into battle. There are not many of us who would be willing to volunteer to leap into the lion's den of Afghanistan where the cowardly enemy hides in caves.

There have been two warriors killed from the Lone Star Battalion this year in Afghanistan: SSgt. Jeremy Smith and Navy Corpsman Benjamin Rast. We shall always remember Smith and Rast and the lives they gave for our freedom.

It has been said that wars may be fought by weapons, but they are won by warriors. It is America's warriors who pay the price for our freedom.

With the recent demise of the most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden, the Lone Star Battalion has rejoiced knowing that the Al Qaeda leader is dead but remains humble knowing the fight for freedom is not yet won. I am truly honored to represent many of these fine Marines in Congress and proud to know that there are so many Texans abroad aiding in the security, development and protection of the Afghan and American interests.

I sincerely thank each person who has served our country yesterday, today and tomorrow. Without your service we would not be the greatest country the world has ever known.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, NAMED "BEST FOR FOOD" IN THE UNITED STATES BY RAND McNALLY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the many contributors who hosted the Rand McNally Best of the Road competition's judges in Lafayette, Louisiana. Their combined efforts led to Lafayette being named the first "Best for Food" city in the United States. This recognition confirms what many of us already know—there is no place like Lafayette, Louisiana.

The Best of the Road competition began this year in search of the best city in the country in five categories: "Most Beautiful," "Most Patriotic," "Friendliest," "Most Fun," and "Best for Food." Over 600 towns applied for the awards, and thirty finalists were chosen. After visiting the finalists, the judges (consisting of 10 amateur travelers) selected the final 5 winners.

Judges Bonnie and James Parr visited Lafayette to experience the culture and cuisine. The Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission, LCVC, created an itinerary showcasing not only Lafayette's unique culinary landscape, but also her rich Cajun history. Chef Patrick Mould served as the culinary

host, guiding them through their entire experience. The Parrs dined at the following restaurants: Dwyer's, Blue Dog Cafe, Jolie's Bistro, Johnson's Boucaniere, Don's Seafood Hut, French Press, Pamplona Tapas Bar and Restaurant, Charley G's, Randol's, Accidental Chef Cooking, and Hub City Diner. They had lunch with City President Joey Durel, toured the Jean Lafitte Center and Vermilionville, volunteered at St. Joseph's Diner, and visited St. John's Cathedral.

According to Rand McNally's website, the judges "learned the true taste of Cajun food to be 'flavorful, not hot or spicy' and after a meal, the best dessert is 'Cajun dancing.'"

Because Lafayette was chosen as a winning city, it was featured in USA Today on Friday, July 22, 2011. Lafayette's "Best for Food" title will be displayed in the 2013 Rand McNally Atlas.

I am thrilled Lafayette, my hometown, has been honored in such a unique and fitting manner. The award is excellent publicity for our city and region. Once again, I congratulate City Parish President Joey Durel, all members of the LCVC who worked on this project, and the restaurants and chefs who provided such excellent food for the judges.

TO AMEND SECTION 402(a)(2)(M) OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 TO EXTEND BY TWO YEARS THE SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN ALIENS AND VICTIMS OF TRAF- FICKING

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would extend by two years the three-year effective period of extended Supplemental Security Income, SSI, eligibility for time-limited humanitarian immigrants. This is a commonsense bill that simply extends the current policy, which is set to expire on October 1, 2011. The population that would be assisted by this legislation is elderly and disabled refugees and other humanitarian immigrants who have very low income, and who face barriers to passing the naturalization exams within the time limits.

In 2007 during the 110th Congress I introduced H.R. 2608 with bipartisan support, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008 (P.L. 110–328). This legislation would extend that policy again so that approximately 3,000 refugees do not lose SSI benefits on October 1. Failure to enact this legislation would cause serious hardship for this population.

Mr. Speaker, July 28, 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, an international treaty signed by 142 nations, including the United States. This treaty remains the cornerstone of refugee protection and represents the struggle of millions of displaced people who are uprooted by conflict and persecution. The treaty explicitly commits nations

to ensure that lawful refugees be eligible for basic public assistance. This legislation is a small step toward meeting our commitment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ON THE OCCASION OF DAVID PAYNE'S RETIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Payne on a successful career—40 years in service to the residents of Bloomfield Township, as he retires from his position as Township Supervisor.

Mr. Payne began his career in the Road Department in 1970 while finishing his college studies. Just five years later Dave was promoted to Director of the Road Department, the youngest director in the Township's history.

Dave's foray into elected politics began in 1995 when he was appointed Township Treasurer and was subsequently elected to that position in the following year. Thanks to his strong record as Treasurer, Dave was selected to replace his predecessor in the Supervisor's office in 1999 and the residents of Bloomfield Township have subsequently elected to that position three times, in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Dave's stewardship of Bloomfield Township has resulted not only in continued prosperity of its businesses and residents, but also transformed the Township's professional environment.

When Dave took the reins of the Township he implemented new policies to change how the Township interacts with the media, its residents and intra-operationally. Upon entering office Dave worked to ensure good communication between the Township and the media—always making himself available to answer questions. He also sought to make it easier for residents and citizen groups to integrate their input into Township business and for concerned citizens to be able to communicate directly with elected officials.

During Dave's tenure as Supervisor, Bloomfield Township has weathered an economic storm that has affected so many other communities across Michigan and the Nation. As a result of Bloomfield Township's sure financial footing under Dave's leadership, Standard and Poor's raised the Township's credit rating to AAA, the highest rating possible for municipalities and as such, Bloomfield Township is one of only five municipalities in Michigan to hold this rating.

Dave's approach to leadership in Bloomfield Township has resulted in continued success for the Township's businesses and residents. I know his hands-on-approach to leadership and his ability to produce consensus will be greatly missed by his colleagues and residents who he served. I wish Dave many more years of success and know that as a resident of Bloomfield Township, the community will continue to benefit from his activism and service.